

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Charles Crawford" <CCrawford@ACB.org>
To: <info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 10:02 PM
Subject: Fwd: I support video description

>Delivered-To: ccrawford@braille.acb.org
>Delivered-To: acbmail-ccrawford@acb.org
>X-Sender: astutts@mail.mindspring.com
>X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 5.1
>Date: Mon, 25 Feb 2002 21:32:31 -0500
>To: <fccinfo@fcc.gov>
>From: Allen Stutts <astutts@mindspring.com>
>Subject: I support video description
>
>TO: Mr. William Caton, Secretary
>Federal Communications Commission
>
>Please let the Federal Communications Commission know I support them in
>not retreating from their order and I need video description to be
>implemented on schedule in April as recommended by MM docket number
>99-339. I am visually impaired.
>It is important that video description start being broadcast. If public
>television can do it, for profit television can do it too.
>Allen Stutts
>102 Locust Court
>Chapel Hill, NC 27516
>
>

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Joseph" <jlarami1@nycap.rr.com>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 9:50 PM
Subject: I support Descriptive Video

Please add to you list of discriptive vidio supporters.

Sincerely,

Joseph G. Laramie

18 Carroll Terrace

Albany, New York 12209

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Ray Campbell" <country.boy@worldnet.att.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Cc: "Bill Van Dyke" <kansas94@attbi.com>; "Camille Caffarelli" <camille@horizons-blind.org>;
 "Christie Gilson" <clgilso@ilstu.edu>; "Dave Postle" <scpost@eosinc.com>; "Howard Thomas"
 <hthomas1@aol.com>; "Illinois Council of the Blind" <icb@fgi.net>; "Jeff Hawkinson"
 <jeffrey.p.hawkinson@irs.gov>; "Judy Mullen" <judymullen@yahoo.com>; "M. J. Schmitt"
 <mjschmitt2002@yahoo.com>; "Maggie Nettles" <maggieskitchencorner@yahoo.com>; "Mr. Jim
 Bailey" <linccil@apci.net>; "Paul Liddle" <csgrill@worldnet.att.net>; "Ray Campbell"
 <country.boy@worldnet.att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 9:48 AM
Subject: I Support Video Description

Illinois Council of the Blind
 Post Office Box 1336
 Springfield, IL 62705
 217-523-4967
icb@fgi.net
 February 26, 2002

To the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission:

The Illinois Council of the Blind (ICB) is a consumer organization of and for Illinois citizens who are blind or visually impaired. Like others who are blind or visually impaired all across this nation, those of us in Illinois have waited over 15 years for equal access to television program through Video Description. In September, 2000, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandated that by April, 2002, just a little more than one month away, cable and over-the-air broadcasters provide four hours of either prime time or children's programming per week with video description in the top 25 television markets across the nation, including Chicago and St. Louis, two television markets viewable by Illinois citizens. This order was issued in Docket number: 99-339.

Unfortunately, instead of working to achieve compliance with the FCC order, the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Cable Telecommunications Association and the Motion Picture Association of America have instead chosen to put their resources towards continuing to deny people who are blind or visually impaired equal access to television programs. Even though the broadcast industry makes claims that it is socially responsible, it is doing a very socially irresponsible act by seeking to block implementation of the FCC order in Federal Court.

We as individuals who are blind or visually impaired have fought long and hard just to achieve equal access to television programs. Network and cable television provides entertainment and information and is an icon of American culture. The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and Turner Classic Movies (TCM) have woken up and realized that people who are blind or visually impaired are a valuable segment of the market that cannot be ignored. They have made many of their programs accessible to our population through the

use of Video Description. Many of the arguments being made against Video Description by the broadcast industry are the same ones made against requirements for closed captioning when it was mandated several years ago. Today, 98% of all television programs are closed captioned.

We in the Illinois Council of the Blind stand with the FCC in support of its mandate to require Video Description by April, 2002. Please send a message to the broadcast industry that we will not continue to stand by and be denied our equal rights to access television programs. Thank you in advance for your time, attention and action to fight this latest attempt by the broadcast industry to deny us our rights.

Sincerely,

Ray Campbell, President, Illinois Council of the Blind

Cc: All members, Illinois Council of the Blind Board of Directors

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Bill Mlynarski" <mlynarsk@concentric.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 9:38 PM
Subject: We Need Descriptive Video

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Abby Vincent" <avincent@ix.netcom.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 9:07 PM
Subject: re: I support video description

I have been partially sighted since childhood. I am a cable subscriber and occasionally attend movies.

I am very offended that the cable, movie, and television industries care so little about the ability of people who are blind to enjoy this kind of information and entertainment to the same extent as our sighted companions can. The audio track describing on-screen action not made clear in the dialog is essential to my complete enjoyment of movies and television programs. I was looking forward to enjoying more audio-described programs next month. Now I hear that audio-description is again being postponed.

I hope the FCC will re-consider its decision and require the cable and movie industries, as well as network television to have audio-description on many of their programs.

Abby Vincent
Culver City, California
avincent@ix.netcom.com

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapive

From: <HarilynR@aol.com>
To: <Info@acb.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 9:33 PM
Subject: I support video description

Please include me as a supporter of video description.

Harilyn Rousso, CSW
Executive Director
Disabilities Unlimited Consulting Services
3 East 10th St. - 4B
New York, NY 10003-5916
212-673-4284 (phone/fax)
HarilynR@aol.com

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "David" <davidl@tri.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 9:22 PM
Subject: I support video description

Secretary of FCC:

I request that you not allow the stay of implementation of video description rule. This rule, which will help blind and visually impaired individuals all across the U.S., should be allowed to take effect at initially scheduled.

David Lewerenz, O.D.
Drs. Lewerenz and Welsh
900 Westchester Dr.
Salina, KS 67401

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Miriam Vieni" <miriam@panix.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 9:13 PM
Subject: I Support Video Description

To The Secretary of the FCC
RE MM Docket # 99-339

My address is 515 Oxford Street Westbury NY 11590

As a partially blind person, I have greatly appreciated and benefited from the limited descriptive video available on my public television station here in New York. I have been looking forward to being able to appreciate a wider variety of described programming in April. I am outraged at the self serving actions of the Industry which, in effect, attempt to rob me of equal access to television programs. I support the FCC in its refusal to retreat from its order.

Miriam Vieni, C.S.W.
New York Home Study Service
<http://www.techease.com/nyhomestudy>
Email: miriam@panix.com
Fax: 516-876-8246
Voice: 516-333-4999

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: <unclemose1@chartermi.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 9:03 PM
Subject: I support video description

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapive

From: "sharon" <sharonhjosh17@earthlink.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 8:59 PM
Subject: I Support Video Description

302 East Joppa Road
Apartment 303
Towson, Maryland 21286
February 25, 2002

Attn. Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 15th Street, SW
Washington, DC 29554

Dear Mr. Caton:

I am writing concerning Reference MM Docket no. 99-339. I understand that the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Cable Telecommunications Association and the Motion Picture Association of America filed a petition late last Friday at the FCC to stay the implementation of the video description rule until after the court appeal is decided. I ask that video description be implemented as scheduled in April.

I remember the first time I heard a video description of a movie. I was in my dormitory at the Seeing Eye, getting my third guide dog. I began to hear a narration of a movie, along with what the actors were saying. For the first time in my life, I really began to understand how much visually impaired people miss in movies and on television.

I believe blind and visually impaired people should have the same access to movies and television as the rest of the viewing public. Please do not back down one month before compliance is required, in response to pressure from these industries. Please do the right thing, and allow us the same access as the rest of America.

Sincerely,

Sharon Hughey, M.Div., Ph.D.

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Mark D" <monk_chanter@hotmail.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Cc: "Anthony Tibbs" <tibbsa@softhome.net>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 8:56 PM
Subject: I support video description!

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 15th Street, SW
Washington, DC 29554
>Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

While I realize that I am a Canadian citizen, this country is so closely linked with the United States of America that I feel OBLIGATED to write this letter.

I am deeply offended, shocked, and surprised that the Movie, Cable and Television Industry, an organization that purports itself to be socially responsible, is making efforts to deny me and all other visually impaired persons the rights we are afforded as human beings and North American citizens. I am speaking, of course, of the rights to access information available to the sighted public via the television or movie theater screen. Television is the number one medium in today's society by which information, news, entertainment, and advertisements are conducted to the world. Do I not have the right to be entertained? Do I not have the right to be informed on issues present in our world that concern me and affect me most seriously? Do I not have the right to take part in society in a way which has become routine for all North American citizens since the 1950's? I most certainly do!

I would urge you to uphold the earlier decision to implement descriptive video in April. It is vital to the development of society! Only in a society where everyone is included and afforded equal access can people truly be said to be free, and only in such a society can the best be brought out in all of us. I urge you also to uphold the decision as a matter of common decency. Please. This decision costs very, very little and yet, it would make an immense difference in the lives of so many people, both visually impaired and otherwise.

Thank you,
Mark Dumalski

851 Paradise Cr.
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K4A 3S4

a

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Donna Rose" <a2wildrose@earthlink.net>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 8:55 PM
Subject: I support video description

February 25, 2002

Mr. William Caton, Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 15th Street, SW

Washington, DC 29554

Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

Dear Secretary Caton:

I have been notified today that the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Cable Telecommunications Association and the Motion Picture Association of America filed a petition at the FCC on February 22, 2002 to stay the implementation of the video description rule until after the court appeal is decided. I firmly oppose such a stay!

Today I received a bill showing an increase of my monthly cable bill from Comcast to \$38.93. I cannot listen to any television programs here without cable. I am getting tired of paying for TV that is not equally accessible to me. Even if I didn't have to pay, today's technology should be used to provide me with the same information that my sighted counterparts take for granted. Why should we have to keep sitting in the back of the bus?

2/26/02

I often listen to a two or three hour movie on television only to discover that I can't figure out the ending because it either involved action or words that I cannot see or read. Even advertisements are getting more difficult to understand because they don't always include voice. You would think that those advertising would start to think of all of the older American's who don't benefit from advertisements with just words printed on the screen because they have failing vision. Older Americans do hold most of the money in our society, and they are losing their vision as a result of glaucoma, diabetes, and macular degeneration.

I am middle aged and lost the remainder of my vision five years ago. I have been purchasing Descriptive videos from Descriptive Video Service throughout this time. I know how wonderful it was to hear the movie **the Joy Luck Club** with description. I saw it once without this feature and didn't understand much of the movie's content. My sighted niece's have told me that they love the movies that include description, because they can watch with me without feeling as though they need to detail any action for me.

The National Association of Broadcasters, the National Cable Telecommunications Association and the Motion Picture Association of America are violators of my civil rights by denying me equal access to video media that can be enjoyed by everyone else, except the blind! Please do not retreat by allowing them a stay. I am so looking forward to the day when blind people achieve equality in this realm. Thank you for your time.

Very sincerely,

Donna Rose, MSW

2313 Packard #204

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734-747-6466

"Poverty is the worst form of violence."

Mahatma Gandhi

"Of all forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Rick Alfaro" <ralfaro@bellsouth.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 8:42 PM
Subject: I support video description

As a totally blind American, and someone who pays taxes just like everyone else, I am looking forward to the implementation of Descriptive Video into TV programming in April. I can only hope and pray that your ruling will not be side tracked by those that have lots of power and money and have no regard for those of us that deserve equal access to unspoken but televised information. Thank you.

Regards,

Rick Alfaro
ralfaro@bellsouth.net

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Ed Guerra" <edguerra@mail.utexas.edu>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 8:37 PM
Subject: I support video

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Ray T. Mahorney" <rmahorney@earthlink.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 8:35 PM
Subject: I support descriptive video

Ray T. Mahorney
WA4WGA
The Man with the perfect! face for Radio!

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Jackie Boomstra" <jackieb@i2k.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 8:11 PM
Subject: I support video description

Jackie
jackieb@i2k.com

Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.
Checked by AVG anti-virus system (<http://www.grisoft.com>).
Version: 6.0.325 / Virus Database: 182 - Release Date: 2/19/02

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Jeanne Sanders" <sanders_jeanne@hotmail.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 7:51 PM
Subject: I Support Visio

I never knew how much we were missing until I saw my first descriptive video. Quit postponing it give the blind a break.

Jeanne Sanders

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "george Devilbiss" <geodv@erols.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 7:44 PM
Subject: I support video description!

February 15, 2002

Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission

Subject: MM Docket 99-339

Although I am not blind, I am disabled as I am unable to hear well so want to support the blind to be able to understand what is going on in a video as I feel sure they are doing to support us in being able to use wireless telephones with out expensive and cumbersome add-ons. With out an audible description of video, blind persons will be in worse shape that us HOH persons as perhaps we can use digital cellular telephones with these Add-on devices but the blind will not be able to use anything to help them.

I am requesting the FCC to not remove the requirement that video descriptions service be provided

Sincerely,
George DeVilbiss

I am asking the Federal Commission to ignore the request of the movie, cable and broadcast industry to get off the hook to supply description of video presentations.

George DeVilbiss
DeVilbiss Development Co., Ltd
3056 Hazelton St.
Falls Church, VA 22044
Phone 703 534 1681
Fax 703 534 5568
email geodv@erols.com
Home page: www.deaf.mall/devilbiss

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Jim Maney" <billybobjoejim@juno.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 6:48 PM
Subject: I support video description

ATTN: Secretary of the FCC
RE: MM docket number 99-339

I can't understand why there is a need to drag your feet on this issue. Blind people deserve access to the television and motion picture industry just the same as deaf people do. Please do the right thing and let this move forward. I am not blind or vision impaired. I have many friends who are and they have the right to be treated as equal.

I understand that some Cable TV companies and Satellite providers are not including access to the SAP channel required to enjoy DVS service. This seems to be common with Turner Classic Movies.

Before you go to bed tonight; blindfold yourself and sit down for an hour of TV that way. Feel free to get back to me with your thoughts.

Respectfully,

James C. Maney
1820 Larry Drive
Santa Rosa, CA. 95403-2480

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Barbara Vodapivc

From: "dino63" <dino63@mediaone.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 10:08 PM
Subject: I support Descriptive Video!

Dean Vasile
1 Federal St.
Wilmington, MA. 01887
Home: 978-988-0723
Work: 617-225-3933

To The Secretary of the FCC and all other Concerned Parties,

I was thrilled when the "Grinch who stole Christmas" was released with Descriptive video. I thought, "Finally", the industry was getting on board!

I must say that I am DISGUSTED with the news that I just received! How dare the Movie, Cable and Broadcast industries try to slither out of their agreements!

I'm not going to stand for it! and... I HOPE I'M NOT ALONE

Sincerely

Dean Vasile

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "dino63" <dino63@mediaone.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 10:08 PM
Subject: I support Descriptive Video!

Dean Vasile
1 Federal St.
Wilmington, MA. 01887
Home: 978-988-0723
Work: 617-225-3933

To The Secretary of the FCC and all other Concerned Parties,

I was thrilled when the "Grinch who stole Christmas" was released with Descriptive video. I thought, "Finally", the industry was getting on board!

I must say that I am DISGUSTED with the news that I just received! How dare the Movie, Cable and Broadcast industries try to slither out of their agreements!

I'm not going to stand for it! and... I HOPE I'M NOT ALONE

Sincerely

Dean Vasile

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Lisa Gibson" <Lisa.Gibson@rbs.org.au>
To: <internet:info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 6:43 PM
Subject: I support video description

**** Reply Requested When Convenient ****

Attention Secretary of the FCC

REFERENCE MM docket number 99-339.

For a county that actively promotes itself as the world leader of freedom and independence, I find it appalling to hear of the delaying tactics of the movie, cable, and broadcast industry trying to sidle out of their obligations to provide descriptive video. An essential, easily incorporated adjunct that would give millions of blind and vision impaired viewers equal access!

Please note my strong objection.

Regards
Lisa Gibson
60 Dareen Street
Frenchs Forest NSW 2086
AUSTRALIA

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Jeanne-Marie Moore" <suncook@qwest.net>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 6:49 PM
Subject: support for video description

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 15th Street, SW
Washington, DC 29554

Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

Jeanne-Marie Moore
2852 Willamette Street #103
Eugene, Oregon 97405

Dear Mr. Caton,

I am writing to express the important need for video description throughout the television and movie industries. Given that others have immediate access via eye-sight to what is happening, it is only right that peopple who are blind have the same access.

Please do not accept the amendments which would eliminate this access requirement.

Sincerely,
Jeanne-Marie Moore

2/26/02